Please return to Box 711 Alaska

9/28/1939 Copy of form letter written by Bingle

One matter that seems not cleared up in your office and in the office of property custodian is regarding the new and permanent manse at Palmer. Please inform those concerned, if they do not have the information by this time, that the new manse is built on the land given to the Board of National Missions and the United Protestant Church of Palmer. That is where the the church is built also-- on the same property just behind the church, is now located the new manse.

Yours sincerely,

B. J. Bingle

PS. Application blanks for mission aid will be forwarded next wk. made on same basis as last yr.

Palmer, Alaska
Oct, 21 - '42

Dr. E. B. King,
New York City,
Dear Dr. King:

Your air mail letter of Sept. 23 was just received yesterday.

For some reason our air mail has all been delayed for the past month.

I am sorry, as I know you have wondered why I have not answered.

As Mr. Irwin had been in closer contact with Mr Crawford than I, at King's Lake Camp, at a number of conferences, I asked his opinion, and he felt that Mr Crawford was a hard worker, deeply interested in the young people, and that he would probably fit in very well here at Palmer.

Conditions being what they are, the church is not doing very much. Transportation is very irregular, for one thing.

and so many are gone, for another. So it will be a hard climb to get the church up again, and will need to be someone who isn't afraid to work - and if possible a wife who can get the women working again.

Rev Randall expects a call before very long, as the church Board finally passed on his application much to his delight.

Was sorry not to have seen you again in Milwaukee, but knew you were very busy.

Just on the side - the people are terribly upset over Rev. Eubanks not coming back to Anchorage, and I think have misjudged him. I am sorry, as I had a lot of confidence in him. But they seem pleased with Rev. Armstrong.

If I can be of any help, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Mrs Don Irwin.

Regards from all the family.

November 11, 1942

Mrs. Don Irwin
Palmer, Alaska

Dear Mrs. Irwin:

Thank you for your delayed letter of October 21st about Mr. Crawford.

From your letter I am not sure whether or not you and Mr. Irwin are enthusiastic about Mr. Crawford assuming the work at Palmer. I rather have my doubts. If I am wrong, I know that you will feel perfectly free to clear my thinking.

It is too bad that we have to make so many changes at Palmer, expecially with conditions as they are, but there is nothing we can do about it.

I, too, am sorry that I did not get to see you at Milwaukee, but it was fine to say hello to you and Don.

Give my regards to the family.

Cordially yours,

EBK:JC
AirMail

January 15, 1943

AIR MAIL

Mrs. Don Irwin
Palmer, Alaska

Dear Mrs. Irwin:

Since your minister will probably be in service by the time this bulletin will reach him by mail, I am sending it to you in order that you may be able to use the information, together with the materials that are enclosed.

I have communicated with Rev. Mr. James W. Hall in Ketchikan about accepting the work in Palmer. So far he has not given a favorable answer. We will be able before long I hope to have someone. However, man power is quite a problem in the ministry today as so many of our ministers have gone to the chaplaincy.

Give my regards to the family.

Cordially yours,

EBK/mk

enc.
Alaska News Letter

February 27, 1943

Mrs. Don Irwin
Palmer
Alaska

My dear Mrs. Irwin:

Yesterday I sent you the following telegram: "Hall out. Recommend Victor Alfsen, graduating from Princeton in summer."

It has been decided that it would not be wise for the Rev. James Hall to be transferred from Ketchikan to Palmer. The Halls are expecting an arrival in the family in the early part of the spring. Then, too, Mr. Hall feels that he has been in Ketchikan for such a short time that it would not be fair to the work to transfer here. I think he is perfectly right. That is why I stated in my wire, "I have recommended Victor Alfsen". I think he would serve well at Palmer.

He is married and his wife is a native of the state of Washington. Alfsen is a Scandinavian by birth. He graduates from Princeton Seminary this summer--in August. The only difficulty is that he can not possible be in Palmer before the first of September. This will give a rather long time when the Palmer Church will be without a local leader. It was my thought that you might be able to get supplies from the Chaplains from Anchorage and that Bert Bingle might spend several weeks with you from time to time trying to span the gap between this date and the first of September.

I am so sure that Victor Alfsen will fit into the picture that I am quite willing to ask you to make these extra arrangements in order to call him as the minister. If you will wire me your approval or the approval of the congregation, I shall then set up definite plans with Mr. Alfsen and you can start providing for definite supplies for your Church for the next few months.

There is a real man power shortage in the ministry. I think we are most fortunate in having Mr. Alfsen available for Palmer. If your Church can not make the necessary arrangements to call him, I do not know where to go for the man. I am, therefore, looking forward to hearing from you that you give me permission to make the final arrangements for Mr. Olsen's services.

Cordially yours,

EBK:VLM

Palmer, Alaska.
Mar. 4 - 1943

Dear Dr. King,

Your telegram of Feb. 26, rec'd, read and discussed at the Council Meeting of Mar. 1st.

We wish to thank you for your recommendation of Mr Victor Olsen. However we would like to have another matter cleared, which is the consideration of Rev. Crawford of Cordova. He might be a possible candidate for the pastorate since he informed us that he had severed connections with the church there. He moderated our Annual Meeting and left a favorable impression.

Thanking you for your consideration of the matter,

Board of Elders
Mrs Marshall
Mr Walter Huntly
Mrs Don Irwin, Clk.

Dear Dr King -

This enclosed letter was compiled by the board of Elders, and I am sending it as such.

I have wondered if my inability to recommend Rev. Crawford had any weight with you. I did not intend that it should have. I merely felt that I knew so little about him that I could not truthfully say one way or another.

When your second letter came in reply to mine I was away and failed to answer it. If you hesitated due to my letter please do not let that stand in the way.

Rev Crawford was at church the Sunday of the Annual Meeting and moderated the meeting, and left it well understood he could come to Palmer. That day I read the letter of your recommendation of Rev. Hall.

Now some of the people wonder why Rev. Crawford would not be available.

We have been fortunate in getting

a Rev. Dr Mott from the East to supply for us. He is well liked & will come as long as the Authorities will permit him to come. The church has been paying him $5 & o. per Sunday.

I feel that your judgment is best and if you think it best to supply until Sept. your judgment is right, and the Church will be willing to act accordingly.

The Council is getting better organized and people seem to be taking new interest. For some reason Rev. Randall did not seem to be the right man.

Will anticipate hearing from you again soon.

Sincerely,

Mrs Don Irwin

March 19, 1943

AIR MAIL

Mrs. Don Irwin
Palmer, Alaska

Dear Mrs. Irwin:

I can assure you that your silence about Rev. Mr. Crawford did not have any influence in my decision about him going to Palmer. I have other plans for Mr. Crawford for the work in Alaska and believe that he will fit in to them better than the local work at Palmer.

I am still maintaining that Mr. Victor Alfsen would be the ideal man. He has a Norgegian background, is a perfect giant physically, and has a deep desire to give his services to Alaska.

I feel that if you can supply the church until he is able to arrive that you will be more than glad to have him.

Cordially yours,

EBK/mk

Palmer, Alaska
June 4, 1943

Dr. Everett B. King
Board of National Missions
Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.
156 Fifth Ave.
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. King:

At the regular monthly meeting of the Council of the United Protestant Church of Palmer, Alaska, on June 2, the matter of a heating system for the church was the principal matter of business.

In order to adaquately heat the building and reduce the fire hazard to a minimum the Board of Trustees made the following report and recommendations:

1- A new cement block chimney has been constructed in the church at a cost for material and labor of $302.00. This item has been paid by the local church from the general fund.

2- Heating engineers have recommended the size furnace necessary to adequately heat the church. A warm air furnace was recommended, with a fire-box adapted for either coal or wood. Information and prices have been received from reliable firms having such equipment available.

3- The cost of the unit selected, plus transportation from the factory to the west coast and thence to Palmer will be approximately $1100.

4- The United Protestant Church at Palmer is not in a position to finance this necessary installation.

5- This report and recommendations was accepted by the Council. The Session was requested to communicate with the Board of National Missions with reference to securing a loan to finance the heating project for the church, in the amount of $1100.

6- It is suggested that repayment of this loan be made directly to the Board of National Missions at the rate of $30. per month, payable monthly, quarterly, semi-annually or annually as the Board may direct.

The Session, acting at the request of the Church Council, earnestly solicit your favorable consideration of this loan for the purpose indicated.

May we have a reply at your early convenience.

Respectfully yours

Don L. Irwin

Session, United Protestant Church
By: Don L. Irwin, Elder.

June 8, 1943

AIR MAIL

Mrs. Don Irwin
Palmer, Alaska

Dear Mrs. Irwin:

Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Victor I. Alfsen are planning to be in Palmer sometime near the first of September. Mr. Alfsen will complete his seminary training the latter part of August, and after receiving his ordination the two will be headed for Palmer. I am sure that you and the people in the valley will be delighted with these two fine young people. They have all the appearances of fine leaders.

The Board of National Missions is setting aside $1600.00 for their salary for the year, beginning September 1, 1943. Since living expenses are so high, I am asking that the Palmer Church join with the Board of National Missions and pay Mr. and Mrs. Alfsen $400.00 a year on salary, thus giving them a total salary of $2000.00 for the year. I hope that it will be possible for you to begin your payments along with the Board of National Missions on September 1, 1943.

Cordially yours,

EBK/mk

Dictated but not signed by
Dr. King.

June 15, 1943

AIR MAIL

Mr. Don L. Irwin
Palmer, Alaska

Dear Mr. Irwin:

I have your letter of June 4, in which you give the action of the monthly meeting of the Council of the United Protestant Church on June 2, relative to a heating system for the church. I am glad to note that this step of progress is being made. From my memory, I am sure that you are not taking this action before it is greatly needed.

Accordingly, I am making a recommendation to the Board that the Board make a grant of $1100.00 in order to complete the installation of the heating system . If this grant is made then it will not be necessary for the local church to repay the grant. However, I will expect the local church to add $30.00 to the minister's salary.

On June 8, I wrote to Mrs. Irwin and stated that the Board of National Missions was setting aside $1600.00 a year, beginning September 1, 1943 for the salary for the minister. In that letter I asked that the Palmer Church join with the Board of National Missions and pay $400.00 a year on the minister's salary. When this grant of $1100.00 is made, I am going to ask the Palmer Church to increase their giving from $400.00 a year to $600.00 a year on the salary, thus the Board would pay $1400.00 a year, instead of the originally planned $1600.00. In addition to the $600.00, of course, you would pay the pension premium of 3%.

I sincerely trust that this arrangement will be satisfactory. It will, of course, help the Board in carrying on the work. As soon as I have definite word from my recommendation, I shall notify you.

Cordially yours,

EBK/mk

P.S. The $30.00 mentioned above to be paid toward the minister's salary would be included in the additional $200.00, which we are asking the church to pay in order to make their share $600.00.

June 24, 1943

AIR MAIL

Mr. Don L. Irwin
Palmer, Alaska

Dear Mr. Irwin:

Under date of June 15, I wrote you acknowledging receipt of your request issuing from the Council of the United Protestant Church for $1100.00 as a loan, in order that you might install a heating system in the church. My answer was that I had recommended that the Board make a grant of $1100.00 in order to help you complete the installation of this heating system. I am glad to notify you now that the Board has approved this request and that the $1100.00 is now available as a grant for you. I shall be glad to send it to you upon your request.

In my letter of June 15, my request was that you apply the $30.00 a month, that you offered to make on repayment of the loan, on the minister's salary. I sincerely hope that your Council will concur in this request.

Cordially yours,

EBK/mk

July 22, 1943

Mr. Don L. Irwin, Elder
Palmer,
Alaska

Dear Mr. Irwin:

I have your letter dated July the 9th, and note the action taken by the Council in regard to accepting $1100, made available by the Board of National Missions to the Palmer Church for the installation of a heating system. I am sorry that the church has taken this action.

I note that the reason giv n was that the Council did not want to complicate the local treasury by making the deductions according to federal regulations. You will be interested in knowing that all ordained ministers are exempted from the federal regulations in the matter of deductions; in other words, you would not be called upon to take care of this item. Even the Board of National Missions does not do this with the ordained ministers.

Since, therefore, you will not be expected to take care of the deductions, may I not ask that you reconsider, and designate the total $55 as payment on the minister's salary? I can assure you that this procedure will be of the greatest help and benefit to the Board.

I congratulate you and the church on the pride that you have maintained in the policy of paying as you go; that is a splendid record that you have made and are making. I wish more of our churches would try to adopt this principle.

Please let me know as soon as it is possible for you to do so relative to the Council reconsidering the grant of $1100.

Cordially yours,

EBK:is
AIR MAIL

Palmer, Alaska
July 9, 1943

Dr. Everett B. King
Board of National Missions
Presbyterian Church
156 Fifth Ave.
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. King:

Since the two letters from you relative to the matter of $1100. for the instalation of a heating system in the Palmer church were filed with the Secretary of the Church Council, I do not have the dates when they were written.

At the regular monthly meeting of the Church Council, on July 7 the matter of the heating system and the proposed grant of $1100.,from the Board of National Missions, for its instalation were discussed at length.

The matter of accepting $1100. as a grant did not meet with the approval of the Council. Since the new Victory and income tax regulations will be in force it will complicate payments both by the local church and the Board of National Missions. The Council therefore voted to accept the $1100. as a loan repayable directly to the Board of National Missions. They further discussed the matter of making all payments on the ministers salary directly to the Board so that any deductions or Federal regulations relative to the ministers salary might be taken care of at the source. That would mean that if that were done the $25. which the local church have been paying to the minister and the $30. repayment on the loan, a total of $55. would be paid each month to the Board instead of to the minister. In addition the local church will expect to pay the ministers insurance premium on his salary.

The local church has always, taken a certain pride in a policy of"pay as you go". Possibly that is one reason why the church is in a favorable situation financially. As time goes on it will be the policy of the local church to repay to the Board such funds as may have been advanced to assist in the construction of the church and manse. We feel that we have had the benefit of your assistance in constructing this church. When the time comes that we can repay the funds it is only right that we assist in extending the work of your Board to other communities that may need assistance. We have no thought of complicating matters for your Board; but we are able now to repay the $1100. on the basis as indicated and trust this arrangment will meet with your approval.

Sincerely yours,
Don L. Irwin
Don L. Irwin
Elder.

Palmer, Alaska
August 30, 1943

Dr. Everett B. King
Board of National Missions
Presbyterian Church
156 Fifth Ave.
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. King:

Your letter of August 20 is at hand and we are glad to note that Reverend Victor I. Alfson and Mrs. Alfson are on their way to Alaska. I am sure that the people of the church will give them a most cordial welcome and will assist in every way to make their work among us both pleasant and profitable.

In the matter of the second portion of your letter with reference to the amount the church may be able to assume on the pastors salary; the final decision has been held in abayence by the Church Council, pending the outcome of negotiations for the $1100. loan from the Board of National Missions.

The Church Council of the United Protestant Church hold their regular monthly meeting on next Wednesday evening. At that time it is hoped that the statis of the $1100. loan can definitely be disposed of.

Very sincerely yours,

Don L. Irwin

Don L. Irwin
Elder

August 20, 1943

AIR MAIL

Mr. Don L. Irwin, Elder
Palmer, Alaska

Dear Mr. Irwin:

Rev. Mr. Victor I. Alfsen and his wife left in their car this week for Seattle. They have the assurance that they will be able to get a boat sometime the early part of September, so you can expect them about the middle of the month. I am sure that you will be delighted with this fine young couple. They impressed me as having a real service to render.

Back on July 22, I wrote you a letter asking you to designate $55.00 a month as payment on the minister's salary. To date I have not received any answer from you. I have indicated to the Alfsens that they would receive a salary of $2000.00 a year. In order, therefore, that the Board may be in a position to know what will be expected of them, will you please send me information about the amount of money that the Church is going to pay on their salary.

Cordially yours,

EBK/mk

Matanuska Valley

Board of National Missions
of the Presbyterian Church in the
United States of America
156 Fifth Avenue, New York 10, N.Y.

May 17, 1945

Mr. Bert E. Van Soest
18 E. 13th
Holland, Michigan

My dear Mr. Van Soest:

Your letter of April 15th to Dr. Dawber concerning opportunities for extension work in the Matanuska Valley has been referred to me for answer. Dr. Dawber has indicated his recommendation that no new work should be started in Alaska until after the war.

The Matanuska Valley has at least five Church groups now and apparently more coming. When the village of Palmer was settled it was the purpose to have a United Protestant Church and a Catholic. The Lutherans refused to come into this arrangement so provision was made for the three Churches. The hospital was a government hospital but since has been taken over by the Seventh Day Adventists who are on the way to establishing a Church group in the community also. Two or three other groups such as Pentecostals and an independent mission are moving in to see if they can get a foothold.

The Valley has approximately 250 farms under cultivation. The majority of them are Church people but many of them are not and do not want the Church. If you would like to go in under these conditions I feel that we have no personal basis of discouraging you.

This sort of Church situation is applicable all over Alaska. Every sect outside of the Home Missions Council and even some inside are attempting to expand there work in the Territory and usually in places where there are more than enough Church groups to take care of the population. That is one of the distinct problems now in the Territory which is especially confusing to the Natives.

If you are determined to work in Alaska why don't you consider the possibility of coming in with the Presbyterian work which would be very similar to the work of the Reformed Church. Recently, I had a conference with a Reformed minister in Illinois toward that end but

we finally decided that he was too far along in life to move from one denomination to another for this purpose. Please do not misunderstand this suggestion. I have no desire to "steal sheep" from the ministry of one of our sister Churches but the future development of Alaska may be much over-rated and it would be better to consolidate our efforts in a larger program than to spread them out over too many Church groups.

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JEJ:FK

Palmer Ch

May 22, 1945

VIA AIRMAIL

Mrs. Margaret Miller
Palmer, Alaska

My dear Mrs. Miller:

We have noticed on the reports of Mr. Alfsen that your Church has increased its monthly payments in the amount of $5.- toward the support of your minister. We are writing to ask you to present our appreciation and commendation to the officers and members of your Church for this advance in your part of the support.

You have given evidence that the Church intends to carry its corresponding responsibility in the ministry which you enjoy. We commend you also for the responsibility which you are taking for the necessary repairs on the Church and manse. Mr. Alfsen has reported that you plan extensive repairs and will see them through this year.

We especially appreciate the increase in support because it does give us a more permanent basis upon which to make our plans for the support of all of our work in Alaska. We understand there was an old agreement that if the Church had any balance at the end of the year it would be forwarded to the Board as additional support. This is a fine attitude but the regular monthly responsibility is much better from our viewpoint and we would encourage your officers to increase that as rapidly as possible in order to release our limited funds for further ministry in the Territory.

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JEJ:FK

Miss Gladfelter
Dr. Jackman

July 12, 1946

Thank you for sharing with us the attached letter from Dr. Albrecht. Mr. Alfsen has informed us that they have not proceeded far enough in their organizational campaign yet to be able to determine what action will be taken in regard to the future management of the hospital. He promises to keep us informed about developments.

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JEJ:FK

Dictated by Dr. Jackman
but signed in his absence

Att.: June 28, 1946 letter from Dr. C.Earl Albrecht

October 16, 1945

Mrs. Margaret Miller
Chairman of the Council
Presbyterian Church
Palmer, Alaska

My dear Mrs. Miller:

We have had a number of requests for further mission work in Alaska. We are beginning our new budget year and are making an effort to meet all these requests which have come. There are not sufficient funds in our budget to do all of them but we do find a way out. If it is possible for our churches which are already receiving aid from the Board to increase their aid the Board can meet these requests. If local support is not increased it simply means the Board must say no to other urgent requests which are coming for the services of our missionaries.

The Church at Palmer has been very good about cooperating with the Board in the support of your minister. During the past year you increased your gifts by $5. a month which was a great help to us. We hope it will be possible for you again to make an increase so that we can answer other requests. During this coming budget year which began October 1st, we have only $1400. available for Palmer. Mr. Alfen's salary has been $2000. and manse and we would want it to be the same amount during the coming year. This means that if we are to continue we must ask the Church to raise $600. locally for the salary. We believe it is possible for your congregation to do this and we earnestly hope that we may hear from you saying that we can count on you to do this for the coming year.

May we ask you to send our greetings to your congregation and council and express our appreciation for the fine thing which you are doing together with Mr. and Mrs. Alfsen.

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JEJ:FK

VIA AIRMAIL

Palmer Seder

THE UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH
Palmer, Alaska

November, 1945

Dear Friends,

We wish to express our sincere gratitude to you for your generous kindness in contributing to the support of our pastor. It would be nice if it were possible for each of you who have shared with us, to visit our church services. I am sure such a visit would be mutually enjoyed. Were you to come to Palmer and ask to be directed to the United Protestant Church, you would find it located in the same part of the town as the buildings erected by the government in 1935, to form what is known as "civic center." Three church denominations - the Catholic, the Lutheran, and the United Protestants, were granted a three hundred foot square of government land, which was divided into three rather triangular shaped parts, upon which the churches were built. All three churches are of log construction. Each is beautiful in its own individual styling and complementary to the others.

No picture could be made of the church that would give it its true setting because no matter from which direction it is approached, the mountains and scenery which surround it, is inspirational. No picture could include it all as you would see it. One is truly inspired by the beauty of God's world, and filled with the thoughts of it each time before he enters the church. The church is of peeled logs, shellaced,and as you enter the church the high lights and shadow effects on polished logs is lovely and restful. Probably the first object to meet the eye would be the unusual pulpit, which was made of local birch. It is panelled with natural birch bark.

Our Sunday school, whose average attendance is about eightyfive, meets at ten in the morning. All but the Beginners and Nursery Departments meet together for their opening songs and prayers, which are directed by the pastor, Mr. Alfsen. And how the children love him and enjoy him! (Probably because it is so evident that he so sincerely enjoys working with them.) He has a particular ability to choose songs, prayers, and topics that are within the understanding of the children. It is a real pleasure to see how the children's faces glow with response to all he does and says. The little folks meet separately for songs and prayers particularly suited to their comprehension. As in other Beginner departments, their favorite song is "Jesus Loves Me", but no Sunday can go by but what "Let the Merry Sunshine In" must be sung too. Even the babies as young as fifteen months, love to go through the actions of the song. It is sweet to see the clean, happy faces that shine through the arms encircling them.

Church services follow the Sunday school at eleven o'clock. It is gratifying to see how many of the youngsters stay for the services. As Mr. Alfsen takes over the services, from reading the Scriptures, through the prayers, and throughout the well-planned sermon, it is again remarkable how well he holds the interest of the children as well as the adults, in his sincere interpretation of the Bible.

Following services, we like to congregate in the rear of the church to visit for a few moments. Could you have been meeting with us, you would feel that warmth of friendship - and be glad with us, that you are helping to make it all possible.

Sincerely,
(Mrs.) MARGARET T. MILLER
Clerk, United Protestant Church

Files
Palmer Church

NOV 16 1945

United Protestant Church

PALMER, ALASKA

Jackman

November 8, 1945

Mr. J. Earl Jackman, Secty.
Unit of work in Alaska
Board of National Missions
Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.
156 - 5th ave., New York 10, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Jackman,

Your letter of October 16, was read, and acted upon, at our regular monthly Council meeting last evening.

The Council voted to assume the additional $10 a month on the pastor's salary, bringing the total to $50 a month, or $600.00 a year.

Cordially yours,
United Protestant Church Council,
(Mrs) Margaret J. Miller - Secy.

November 19, 1945

VIA AIRMAIL

Mrs. Margaret I. Miller, Secretary
United Protestant Church Council
Palmer, Alaska

My dear Mrs. Miller:

We are grateful to you for your letter of November eighth announcing the decision of the Council to assume the additional twenty dollars a month on the Pastor's salary. We understand that the Church will now pay fifty dollars a month or $600. a year toward the support of The Rev. and Mrs. Victor Alfsen.

May I ask you to convey to the members of the Council and the members of the Church our hearty appreciation for this advance in the support of The Alfsen's. We felt that when we sought to enlarge our missionary service to Alaska and called upon the already existing churches to give greater support to their own ministers so we could do this, the Church in Palmer would respond and do its part. You have fulfilled our faith in you and we want to commend you highly.

In fact we cannot stop here in our words of praise to you for all of the advance which is coming to the Church. Mr. Alfsen has written of the gift of cash to purchase a new refrigerator and also lately has written about the new foundation under the manse. We know that all of these repairs and gifts are going forward through the generosity of the people and we rejoice in this interest and participation in the advanced program of the Church. We trust that this interest is also evidenced in the effort of the people to gather more of the residents of the Valley into the congregation of the United Protestant Church.

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JEJ:PK

THE UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH
Palmer, Alaska

The Manse
April, 9
1 9 4 6

Dear Friends:

This is the first in a series of quarterly news letters in which we hope to keep you informed about the doings of your church. They will contain a little of the past, a little of the future, and perhaps a little "editorial comment" now and then.

Our church services are coming along very well, and thanks to you they are well attended; in fact, some Sunday mornings we even end up discussing the possibility of more pews. If you haven't been with us for some time, come and see for yourself. The evening services are steadily increasing in attendance and we have fine times at these informal services. Did you know that there are nine ambitious people enrolled in our Bible Study course which meets Sunday evenings at seven? They take exams every other week or so and the papers are sent into the Moody Bible Institute for grading. We even have some geniuses who keep getting 100 on their papers.

February 3 was a great day for the church for on that day we took seven new members into the fellowship of the church. We extend a hearty welcome to Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Rempel, Mr. and Mrs. John DeVries, Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Barker, Mrs. Carl Showers, and hope that our associations will be long and happy.

March 13 the Young People held a successful banquet, followed by a Youth Rally in the auditorium at which Jim Rayburn of Dallas, Texas was the speaker. Jim gave a straight-forward, challenging message and six of our young people felt led to take a definite stand for Christ. We praise the Lord for the courage of these six.

We hope to raise 396 dollars this year for benevolences (i.e. money we spend on OTHERS through the agencies of foreign and national missions, the American Bible Society, etc.) We have divided this amount among the departments of the church on the following basis: The General Church Fund 60%, the Sunday School 30%, the Ladies Aid 15%, and the Young People 5%.

Easter is, of course, the next important festival on the church calendar. Palm Sunday we plan to have the Sacrament of Baptism administered so parents who have youngsters that they want to have dedicated to the Lord and others who should wish to be baptized are asked to meet with the pastor just before the morning service on that day. Thursday evening of Holy Week we will have our traditional Communion Service and we hope that we shall welcome many of you to this opportunity to renew your pledge of allegiance to Jesus Christ. At this service we shall also ordain our recently elected elders. Then on Easter Sunday (April 21) we hope to have a glorious service. Eleven boys and girls presently enrolled in a communicants class will join church at that time. If there are others who should care to join at that time, the session would be most happy to meet with you immediately preceding the morning service.

We have been fortunate this year to have a choir which is faithful in attending both rehearsals and services. The church services are greatly enhanced by their presence in the choir loft. We will have an opportunity to show our appreciation by attending the special service on Easter Sunday evening when they will give a cantata entitled, "The Thorn-Crowned King".

We will welcome any suggestions of how these newsletters can be made more informative and enjoyable, but better than that, we love to welcome YOU at any of our services. Let me leave with you in closing a thought from Martin Luther, "I have tried to keep things in my own hands, and I have lost them all. But what I have given into God's hands, that I still possess."

In Christian Fellowship,

Victor Olfson

APR 29 1946

United Protestant Church
REV. VICTOR I. ALFSEN, PASTOR
PALMER, ALASKA

April 24, 1946

Dr. J. Earl Jackman,
Unit of Alaska Work
156 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Dr. Jackman: "quarterly"

Here is a check that should go to the Central Distributing Office, but with the understanding that the percentage that usually goes to the Federal Council go to Theological Seminaries.

We had a fine Easter, 300 in the morning and 70 in the evening. The choir gave its Easter cantata at the evening service and at that time we took an offering for Savoonga. The money order is for that. — $75.00 — F.F.C. Bldg Acct

Our electric organ is on its way just about and if the strikes ease up we should have it some time in June.

Cordially yours,

Vic Alfsen

Palmer Church file

Bldg. Acct - Ch/B.
noted on S/C cd.

Miss Vint
Dr. Jackman

May 2, 1946

We have received the attached money order from the church in Palmer, Alaska as an S.I.C. for the Church in Savoonga. This should be credited to the Building Account.

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JEJ:FK

Att.: M.O. #52718-$75.- to be credited to S.O.B.-S.I.C. re/Bldgs. ch/b for new Church at Savoonga, Alaska

Central Receiving Agency
Dr. Jackman - Unit of Work in Alaska May 2, 1946

We have received the attached check from the pastor of the United Protestant Church of Palmer, Alaska with this specific instruction, that it shall be divided according to the General Assembly's percentages except that the percentage that usually goes to the Federal Council shall go to the Theological Seminaries.

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JEJ:FK

Att.: Ck. #628 - $99.00

Valdez file

ALASKA PERM. FILE

MEMORANDUM May 29, 1946

To - - Miss Voss
From - Dr. Jackman

Mr. Bingle has received the following telegram from Rolland Armstrong:

"PALMER HOSPITAL TOTAL LOSS BY FIRE LIVES AND EQUIPMENT SAVED PRESENT OPERATORS PROBABLY WITHDRAWING MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO DETERMINE WHETHER PRESBYTERIANS WOULD CONSIDER OPERATION OF HOSPITAL WHEN RECONSTRUCTED STOP ASSURANCE OF STABLE OPERATIONS WOULD INFLUENCE COMMUNITY IN FAVORABLE PLANNING RECONSTRUCTION STOP UNDERSTAND FROM EARL OTHER DENOMINATIONS INTERESTED."

It arrived in Atlantic City just after my presentation on Alaska to the Assembly. I showed it to Dr. Milner, Dr. Wilson, and Dr. Morse. Dr. Milner suggested that we get all of the information possible on it and present the matter to the Policy Committee prior to the June meeting of the Board. The hospital situation in Alaska is prodding us greatly!

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska

JEJ:fK

Dictated by Dr. Jackman
but signed in his absence

Our Church in the Matanuska Valley Project.

(appx of 1938)

Palmer, Alaska

ALASKA
PERM. FILE

News Items
OF THE UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH
PALMER, ALASKA

Nestled among the high mountains surrounding the Matanuska Valley is the United Protestant Church of Palmer, the community church for members of the famous Matanuska Valley farm project. This church is the newest of our church adventures and its growth has been most fruitful and eventful.

Organized less than three years ago, the church at Palmer has a federated membership at present of nearly 75 persons. It has withstood a number of reverses as construction men withdrew and left the valley and later clerical employes of the colony withdrew and found homes in other parts of Alaska.

The church is composed almost entirely of farmers, old and new. While it has lost many members through the completion of the federal construction program, it has gained in a greater proportion from the farming group.

The normal Sunday School average attendance is about 112 during nine months of the year. The church draws from a radius of 13 miles.

But the 13 mile radius is not the limit of the work. The Palmer Church serves the coal mines to the north, the many gold mines high in the mountains to northwest, the isolated communities along the railroad to the north, including mining areas; the Eklutna Vocational School to the south, and fishing stations on Cook Inlet. Some of the work is just being initiated but nevertheless it is a part of the program.

On Easter Sunday 22 new members were received into the church, most of them were high school students or adults. On the same day three elders were ordained.

The picturesque church building, made of logs, was built by the members themselves a year and a half ago. The Board of National Missions made a grant of $1500 and a loan of $1700 for the purchase of materials. The loan is being repaid over a five year period. There is no other indebtedness.

Rev. B. J. Bingle, who initiated the work at Palmer, is the pastor.

NEW MANSE

When Rev. B. J. Bingle arrived in Palmer in May, 1935, to minister to the new farmers sent to the Northland by the government, he found but four log cabins and many miles of woodland in the Matanuska Valley.

The new minister found himself without home, church or congregation in a wild timber land. Everyone else was busy finding a home for his family, or participating in the construction of what was to become the thriving city of Palmer.

Rev. Bingle erected a 7 x 9 tent for himself and a 10 x 12 foot tent for his family--wife and two children. For six months they lived in these tents.

With the help of his new congregation and $500 from the Board of National Missions, a temporary manse was constructed and it became the center of many community activities.

In 1937 the beautiful church building was completed and thoughts turned to a permanent manse on church property. The Board of National Missions allowed $1000 for the new project, the rest of the money necessary to come from the sale or rental of the first manse and by the labors of the congregation.

Outside of a paid foreman and short time helpers, all labor on the new manse was donated. This full the completed manse will add $3500 to the property value of the church, and will speak well for the enterprise of the United Protestant Church folk at Palmer. end

FISHING

Fishing is a part of the ministerial duties of Rev. B. J. Bingle in providing for the welfare of the Matanuska Valley farmers.

Each summer the pastor leads a fishing expedition on Cook Inlet, resulting in the catching of many salmon to be canned in the homes of the farmers and used for winter food.

The management of the colony asked Rev. Mr. Bingle to head the fishing activities during the first summer the colonists were in Alaska. Each year since he has been in charge of the boats, nets and other equipment used in taking the salmon.

Year by year the fishing activities have increased and this year more than 6000 fish were taken in the nets under the direction of the pastor. The farmers took them to their homes where they were canned, salted or smoked for consumption this winter.

SPECIAL EVANGELISTIC SERVICES, SEWARD

Having known each other for a number of years, the Supt. of Jesse Lee Home (Indian and Esquimo), Methodist, of Seward, together with the city's own pastor, A. J. Clements, invited Rev. B. J. Bingle of Palmer to visit Seward and Jesse Lee Home the middle of February for the purpose of holding special Evangelistic Services. The week was one of stimulation and refreshment. The young married people of the town church were very responsive in their analysis of their own problems and the consecration of their lives to the building of a better people and community about them. The high school group also made strides forward and the effects is seen in a growth of the two young peoples organizations there.

The response in the Jesse Lee Home was marvelous also. It certainly makes one stop to consider our future responsibility as church leaders when one sees boys and girls who have come from homes which are of lesser possibilities, see these boys and girls bow at the alter audibly praying and consecrating their lives to God. The number of grade school pupils giving such response was large. The high school (Indian) pupils reponse while different was nevertheless as intentful. What can the grace of God do for our native youth if given a chance!

UNITED PROTESTANT CONFERENCE OF ALASKA SOUTHWEST

While at Seward in Feb. as guest speaker for a week of Evangelistic meetings, Rev. B. J. Bingle, Palmer, together with Rev. Chas. Hatten of Jesse Lee Home, Rev. A. J. Clements of Methodist Community Church, Seward, germinated the idea of an annual conference to be held at Seward, of the Presbyterian pastors along the rail belt and at Cordova, of the Methodist Pastors and ordained workers of Kenai Peninsula and Aleutian Islands, of the Congregational minister of the Valdez Church, and of the ordained workers and Pastor of the Baptist work at Kodiak and vicinity. This conference materialized May 5, meeting at the Jesse Lee Home Seward, lasting for three days. Supt. of Jesse Lee Home was made first chairman. An unusual interest maintained itself throughout, the spirit of fellowship was unique. Among the many things enacted were the giving of areas of responsibility for each of the respective denominations and the fostering of a Summer Young Peoples Christian Educational Conference to be held in the Matanuska Valley, and the special requests to the Boards of the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches to have a full time general worker in each of their respective areas.

King's Lake Camp

Having lived in the beautiful Salmon River mountains of Idaho and having seen the value of summer Christian Education camps held by various Idaho churches up in that vicinity, Rev. B. J. Bingle of Palmer did not let his seven years of service in Cordova deter him in his ambition to create a camp capable of such expression in southwestern Alaska. His seven years in Cordova only heightened his desire to erect such a camp.

The first summer in the Matanuska Valley, 1935, was utilized in looking over locations for a summer camp. In 1936 Rev. Mr. Bingle was the leader of a group of Boy Scouts that went into an area of thick underbrush surrounding what the minister considered the prettiest lake in that section of Alaska.

The youngsters and the minister hewed their way to this location with axes. The following year the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Sunday School classes repeated the same adventure. They erected a temporary structure, the girls working as hard as the boys.

So great was the success of the Girl Scout encampment under the leadership of Mrs. C. Earl Albrecht, and of the Homemakers encampment under Ruth Desmond, both members of the Palmer church, that various members of the church decided to back the pastor in his intention of making a permanent camp where all sorts of young people's meetings could be held.

Clyde V. King, on whose land the camp is located, and Dr. Albrecht were the leaders of the enthusiastic move to erect the camp buildings. One permanent structure now stands on the shores of the lake that mirror-like reflects the beautiful Pioneer Peak of the Chugach Mountains in the foreground. Tents are used for housing at present.

The University of Alaska extension department, the Matanuska Valley Girl Scouts, the Anchorage Girl Scouts, the Presbyterian Church of Anchorage, the United Protestant Church of Palmer and other groups within the valley have used the camp this summer.

Final encampment this summer was a conference of high school students from Seward, Anchorage, Eklutna, and Palmer. The conference was the first annual gathering of its kind north of the Gulf of Alaska, conducted under a program outlined by Dr. J. M. Somerndike of the Board of National Missions. The Young People's Christian Endeavor of the Palmer church were leaders of this new venture. Thirty young people in all attended. The fellowship and association together were fruitful but the real values were seen in the intensification and the deepening of the Spiritual life. That last morning before breakfast as we partook of the Communion together under the leadership of Rev. A. J. Clements, Methodist, Seward, will never be forgotten. Students, whose homes stretched from Point Barrow to the Aleutian Islands, brown and white, all kneeling there before the temporary altar, will be a lasting memory for all. The student reaction was, "We can hardly wait till next encampment comes around".

Palmer File

ALASKA
PERM. FILE

EXCERPT FROM June 20, 1946 Minutes of Board

Re: PALMER, ALASKA

"Hospital at Palmer, Alaska (Page #10 Report of Policy Committee)

The Policy Committee recommended approval of the following action proposed by the Cabinet of the Department of Missionary Operation:

> "With respect to Palmer, Alaska, where the community hospital has just been destroyed by fire, that, consistent with the Board's general policy, if the development expected takes place, i.e., that the Board is asked to operate the hospital when rebuilt, the Board express its sympathetic interest and authorize the Department of Missionary Operation to proceed if the way seems clear financially."

FK
July 17, 1946

ESTIMATED VALUE OF CHURCH PROPERTY, PALMER, ALASKA

ALASKA
PERM. FILE

CHURCH:

Building - $25,000.00, present value.
To replace at present would cost $30,000.00.

Furnishings:

Electric Organ	$2409.77
Piano	300.00
Small Organ	25.00
Pews	1200.00
Chairs	250.00
Kitchen range	60.00
Kitchen cabinets	125.00
Dishes, silverware, etc.	250.00
Tables	125.00
Pulpit and Book cases	125.00
New lights	185.00
Floor coverings	125.00
Hymnals, Bibles Communion Service, Baptismal fount	200.00
Curtains and Blinds	125.00
Incidentals, mops, etc.	50.00

MANSE:

Building - $8,000.00

Furnishings: (Board owned)

Piano	$150.00
One overstuffed chair	
Two " couches	
One Library table	
One book case	
Three chairs (dining)	
One floor lamp	
Four kitchen chairs	
One kitchen table	
One large desk	
One bed (complete with springs & mattresses)	
Two chest of drawers	
One dresses	
One washing machine	
Two cots with mattresses	

figure 20% less than original cost to N.Y. Bd.

GARAGE:

Building - $1800.00 present value

ALASKA
PE
FEB 3 1947

MANSE FURNISHINGS OWNED BY LOCAL CHURCH

Two pair drapes	$ 10.00
Five pair curtains	15.00
One gas range	155.00
Two pair curtains	6.00
Seven pair curtains	21.00
One ironing board	6.00
One pair curtains	3.00
Three slip covers	30.00
One bed, complete with spring and mattress	70.00
One living room rug & pad	100.00

Board of National Missions
of the Presbyterian Church in the
United States of America
156 Fifth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

ALASKA
PERM. FILE

June 10, 1949

VIA AIRMAIL

The Rev. Victor I. Alfsen
Palmer, Alaska

Dear Vic:

We have been examining recent grants and loans by the Board to our churches in Alaska to see whether or not the Building Aid office here has all of the legal papers necessary to make the money available.

We find that the application from the United Protestant Church in Palmer does not have the certificate of the attorney completed on it. We shall have to ask you to consult an attorney and get his signature indicating that all of the requirements have been fulfilled there according to law for the mortgage. When this has been completed and returned to us, we can forward the $3000. to you.

The examination of the legal requirements of this loan reveals something that is most unusual. The deed for the church ppoperty indicates that this is owned by the Board of National Missions with a joint tenancy between the Board and the United Protestant Church in Palmer. Ordinarily, the Board does not lend money upon the basis of the security of its own property. Apparently a former grant was made to the church upon the basis of the fact that the Board has a joint tenancy clause with the Church. This was approved by our former attorney who was also Vice President of the Board and very strict about these matters. On the basis of this further action, our attorney has agreed to release the present loan when the application form is completed.

In discussing the ownership of the property with the attorney, I made the suggestion that we consider the possibility of deeding the property to the trustees of the United Protestant Church, and at the same time recording the amount of the grants from the Board of National Missions as the mortgage against the property. This would mean that the local congregation would take entire responsibility for the church property (church and manse if the manse is to be included). The original grants on the property may be repaid by the congregation if it ever gets wealthy enoough to do it, or do not need to be repaid so long as the congregation is a member of the Presbytery of Yukon, and continues to use the property for Presbytery church purposes. If the congregation would withdraw from the Presbytery or the church would be sold for some other use or used for some other purpose, the grants would then be due and repayable with interest.

Mr. Tribus is writing you to clear up the matter about which deed indicates the land on which the church stands. There seems to be some multiplication of real estate transfers in relation to it and clearance needs to be held on this particular point.

You made a very fine gesture in the meeting of the Presbytery in moving that the Presbytery of Yukon thank the Board of National Missions for all of the help that has been given to the churches in that Presbytery over the period of fifty years, but where is the letter to the Board! Two meetings have passed now and no such letter has appeared. It would be most helpful as a matter of good relations if the letter were to arrive and be read before the Board.

When the minutes of the March meeting of the Presbytery have been prepared, we would like to have a copy of them.

Saw your sister and her husband at the President's reception at Princeton Seminary the other day and your ears must have burned. We talked about how many calls you make and how many letters you write, but wound up by agreeing that we love you just the same.

Regards to the Ginny and the children.

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Department of Work in Alaska

JEJ:FK

Enc.: Application for First Mortgage Loan for completion

P.S. We haven't heard anything further about that $200. overbalance in the treasury for Percy's expense. Was I wrong in understanding that it was to be returned to us?

MEMORANDUM

March 28, 1949

To - - Building Aid Committee
From - Dr. Jackman - Dept. of Work in Alaska
Re: - Palmer, Alaska

→ organized 11/24/35

The church at Palmer has outgrown its log church building and needs a basement to transfer some activities down there to make more room on the first floor. The salary of the minister is $3000. (m) of which the church pays $1200. The membership is: Church 130; Sunday School 116, and the attendance: Church 120; Sunday School 130.

The project will cost $10,000. Cash and pledges from the congregation will equal $4000. for the year by the time the basement has been completed. There will be donations of $3000. in material and labor. They are asking for a loan of $3000. repayable on the regular plan. The summary is as follows:

Cost of basement		$10,000.
Cash and pledges 1949.....	$ 4000.-	
Donations material and labor.....	3000.-	
loan from the Board	3000.-	$10,000.

It has been approved by the congregation and Presbytery. Application forms are in hand but have not been signed by the local officers yet. They will be in your hands shortly after Mr. Alfsen, the pastor, returns from the meeting of the Presbytery. We recommend the loan.

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Department of Work in Alaska

JEJ:FK

CC: Mr. Allan D. Locke
Mr. William W. Smith, 2nd.

Dictated by Dr. Jackman through
letter written in Anchorage, Alaska;
signed in his absence.

per Board action in April 21,22,1949 Minutes - ADOPTION (page #6)
of Report on Committee on New Church Development and Building Aid -

Paper C - page #2 - LOAN X with interest, for ten years, repayable in twenty equal semi-annual payments, first payment due one year from date loan is paid to church. Interest payable semi-annually.

Palmer, Alaska - Yukon - $3000.- 2%

Al Bible
Palmer, Al - Perm File

ALASKA
PERM. FI

Dr. Keeler
Dept. of Work in Alaska
Loan for Palmer, Alaska

April 22, 1949

We are attaching herewith a statement approved by the Stated Clerk of Yukon Presbytery approving that the"United Protestant Church of Palmer, Alaska place a first mortgage on its property for the purpose named in the accompaaying application to the Board of National Missions of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A." The application referred to has not been received as yet from Alaska.

The attached statement should be attached to our memorandum of March 28th to the Building Aid Committee in reference to a $3000. loan from the Board toward this church project.

Dept. of Work in Alaska
per

FK

Att: Presbytery Statement. dated 4-5-49